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ADR

100-2401

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

5 July 1945

Chief, Foreign Branch II

Attn: MULLEN

Alfred Otto von HOLZENBERG

REFERENCE: NY 1155

file

1. We are forwarding for your information the following material from our files on Alfred Otto von HOLZENBERG.

2. Subject may be the von HOLZENBERG who in December 1934 was reported to be looking for gold in Palestine but was, in fact, in search of treasure, having heard in Germany that during the German retreat in 1923 the Army had buried a chest containing money in the neighbourhood of Jodin. At the end of 1935, von HOLZENBERG was reported to have exhausted the funds provided for the search by crooked persons in Germany and was therefore unwilling to return to Germany at that time.

3. British sources, apparently prior to 1943, reported that an official Polish source had indicated Subject to be chief of the German I.G. in Rumania where he had been since March 1940. This same report stated that Subject also directed German espionage in other Balkan states. He was said to have a number of army officers working for him and to have an office at 9 Str. Stern called the "Deutsche Gewerbe- und Handelsgruppe W" which enjoyed extra territorial rights. During this period Subject allegedly visited frequently a "German meeting place" at 92-93 Oalea Victoriei, Bucharest.

4. According to DEAT, former SS chief, Subject held the SS rank of Hauptsturmführer and was an outstanding figure, being extremely intelligent, rugged and well-tried. Subject was dispatched to Bucharest with orders to set up an intelligence service and to contact the German minority group (Andreas SCRANT) and the Iron Guard (Marie DRAH); General-Governor RAINE in Frankfurt; General COLDWELLER (Air Attaché); Dr. REINACHER, the Minister; and officers of the Abwehr. That he did

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)  
(2)(A) Privacy   
(2)(B) Methods/Sources   
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

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so "was a considerable achievement," according to JOST due to the intercity of inter-service rivalry. Subject was assisted in his work by Graf von MESEN, and he also had contacts with the local press. His contact with the Russian Foreign Office was very close and gave him the opportunity to receive secret reports received from Moscow, being himself an economist he was able to give a very clear picture of the economic problems of the country. JOST considered Subject the only German who understood political conditions in Russia. Subject, however, made the mistake of protecting Von Gorchest, thus interfering with against the suppression measures of AFRODIT, thus interfering with and opposing AFRODIT against the wishes of the German Foreign Office. The upshot was that Subject was recalled at the insistence of BIELENTROP and all 100 officials in Russia stopped for the time being even though JOST had sanctioned Subject's actions.

5. In 1947-48 one VAN BOISCHEDEN was reported as having a business address at Steinerweg 6, Vienna. This individual was born around 1907-08, was described as having a pale complexion, long thin nose, complexion, blond hair, going bald, blue eyes, 1.85 meters tall, and weight about 78 kgs. He was said to be very tall and thin, wearing glasses with a slight forward lean, but nevertheless stooped over. He was styled a soldier and also a merchant, is said to have worked for the S.D. "several years prior to 1944". He is alleged to have spent about nine months in a Gestapo prison for unknown reasons. This man, however, has been prior to 1943 at a time when BOISCHEDEN, working as a foreign exchange expert, was charged with assisting Jews to emigrate. BOISCHEDEN appears to have been an old friend of ALFRED WAJNROTH, early 1940 and 1945. Interrogation shows that he knew BOISCHEDEN by the nickname of "Oskar".

6. In February 1948 Prince Nikolai STURMIA stated that he was then one of a group of Russians in Salzburg engaged in obtaining intelligence from Germany via a regular courier service. The group was directed, according to STURMIA, by Herbert von LALLIER and Subject, who claimed to be employed by Odilo GURKIN in Frankfurt, described as Property Control Officer. The American group included also Kurt AUNER, France's PLESKY and Ernst SCHALT. The material received from Russia via a courier was said to be written in secret code provided by VONLIER and Subject. Upon receipt, messages were sent to Munich for SW development and then returned to Salzburg for translation. STURMIA approached our C station to express his dissatisfaction with the handling of the group. He considered that the net was capable of procuring significant intelligence

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from Romania, but that political and economic intelligence obtained was being sacrificed since the emphasis was entirely on military information. STURM sought a very direct contact with A15 but was not approached by the C.I.A. He claimed to include in his own network he affected two Russians then in Paris, Col. Ion GHEORGHE and Prince ALICE CAROLINUS. He claimed to have many contacts in Romania and mentioned specifically Col. Ion GHEORGHE, Military Prosecutor; Gen. Radu BOGDAN, Gen. Petru MIHAILACHE and General Mihai POPESCU. It seems possible that these letters at least were from members of the GHEORGHE group then directed, apparently subject to MAPPER.

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